(c) and (d) People are not driven out of protected areas. Relocation of villages is undertaken in national parks and sanctuaries as per requirement in mutual agreement with the local people. In the last 3 years relocation of villages has been done from Pench National Park of Madhya Pradesh and Pakhui sanctuary of Arunachal Pradesh. Relocation of villages is under progress in the Bandipur Tiger Reserve (Karnataka), Blue Mountain National Park (Mizoram), and Gorumara National Park (West Bengal).

Establishment of Snake Parks

4535. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to encourage State Governments to establish snake parks and centres for venom extraction;

(b) whether this idea has been discussed with various State Governments;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal from Government of Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the details of assistance to be given to States to establish snake parks and involve the tribals, traditionally involved in this profession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): ((a) No, Sir.

(b) According to available information, the existing institutions are adequate to meet the requirement for production of anti-snake venom serum and therefore this idea has not been discussed with various State Governments.

(c) No such proposal has been received from the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.

(d) No assistance is proposed to be given to states to establish snake parks and involve tribals in this profession.

Purification of Himalayan rivers in Uttar Pradesh

4536. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that millions of pilgrims and tourists visit Badrinath, Kedarnath, Hemkund Saheb, Yamunotri, Gangotri and other places in U.P. Himalayas, if so, what is the estimated number of such visitors;

(b) whether Government are aware that due to inadequate hygienic facilities, the river system of Ganga and Yamuna is polluted by the seasonal influx of population;

(c) whether Government have made any arrangement to monitor the cleanliness of Ganga, Yamuna and the tributary rivers upstream from Rishikesh; if not, whether such arrangements will be made during summer months in 1995;

(d) whether Government are also aware that the sewer system of all the large towns in the eight districts of U.P. Himalayas are discharged into the rivers without any treatment; if so, what are the details and what action is taken in this regard; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take or have taken to safeguard the purity of water of the U.P. Himalayan river system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): ((a) Yes, Sir. The approximate number of

visitors to Badrinath, Kedarnath, Hemkund Saneb, Gangotri and Yamunotri in the year 1994 is 6.19 lakhs.

(b) The pollution of rivers due to visit of tourists and pilgrims to the above mentioned places is of temporary nature. At various places, urinals and community toilets have been provided by the State Government for keeping the area clean and maintaining hygienic conditions.

(c) to (e) Water quality monitoring upstream of Rishikesh is not being done and is neither contemplated during the summer months of 1995. The water quality of river Ganga and Yamuna in their upper reaches including tributaries, did not warrant pollution abatement works in those stretches. Accordingly, the IInd phase of Ganga Action Plan, including Yamuna component, envisages tackling stretches below Rishikesh and Yamuna nagar—Jagadhari respectively. Also, no proposals were received from the State Government for the upper stretches.

In the townships of hill districts of U.P. wherever the sewer system has been laid no sewage treatment plants have been installed as yet.

Letters of MPs to the Ministry of Environment and Forest

4537. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number and details of letters written by the members of Parliament to the Ministry during the period from 1st April, 1994 to 31st March, 1995;

(b) what is the number of letters acknowledged out of them;

(c) what is the number of letters in respect of which final replies were sent; and

(d) what is the break-up of final letters issued by the Ministry, containing positive and negative replies, respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): ((a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Afforestation funds from mine owners and industrialists

4538. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is asking the mine owners/industrialists in the country to deposit adequate funds for afforestation purpose;

(b) if so, the amount received by Government and spent on this account till date, State-wise, during the last year;

(c) whether the funds were not utilised by State Governments for the aforesaid purpose. if so, the reasons therefor indicating for which purposes other than affortstation the money was spent, State-wise, out of this sanctioned/allocated funds; and

(d) whether Government have kept State-wise records of expenditure for the purposes of fuel, mining activities, construction of Dam, irrigation and generation of powers, etc. out of the total funds allocated for the country as a whole and deposited by other agencies during 1993-94?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND Forests (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Out of the stipulated amount of Rs. 25.686 lakh an amount of Rs. 18.394 lakh have been realised from user agencies for compensatory afforestation. Out of this Rs. 9300 lakh has been spent and an area of 2.206 lakh has been afforested against the target of 3.85 lakh has till December, 1994. The main reason for non-utilisation of funds in past is the financial procedure of deposits and drawal of funds as forestry receipts are still considered as revenue by the States. State-wise details